

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 5, as follows:

According to the present embodiment 3, even when the signal intensity of the 16 pixels ranges over all the eight decode levels LEVEL0-LEVEL7, for example, the calculation of the 16 pixels can be halved to eight times, offering an advantage of being able to considerably reduce the calculation amount for the ~~exposure control~~ gain correction.
